

Remarks

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-20 are pending.

The Examiner finds patentable subject matter in claims 6-8 and 15-18 and indicates that these claims would be allowed if rewritten in suitable form. However in the Office Action, claims 1-5, 9-14, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wood U.S. patent No. 6,556,089 ("Wood").

The Examiner has noted informalities in the drawings, the specification and claim 1

Applicants' Reply

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding of patentable subject matter in claims 6-8 and 15-18.

Applicants have amended the drawings, the specification and claim 1 to address the informalities that were kindly noted by the Examiner. In particular, applicants submit Replacement Drawings (without PCT markings) and submit an Abstract. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have further amended claim 1, 9 and 20 for clarity and respectfully traverse the prior art rejection of claims 1-5, 9-14, 19 and 20.

Independent Claims 1, 9 and 20

Applicants' invention provides provide a "low-power" integrated circuit clock distribution topology which enables efficient distribution of high speed clock signals in

integrated circuits. The inventive clock distribution circuit consumes less power than conventional clock distribution circuits of comparable speed.

Applicants' inventive clock distribution circuits, couple additional inductors (L) with common capacitive distribution circuits. In particular, the inventive clock distribution circuit includes "at least one inductor in addition to the capacitive clock distribution circuit." The claimed additional inductor is in addition to the inherent or stray wire inductance of the capacitive clock distribution circuit itself. Further, the additional inductor has a value selected to resonate with the impedance of the capacitive clock distribution circuit. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 20 to emphasize this feature of the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that this feature i.e., an additional inductor, is not shown taught or suggested by Wood. Wood relates to a clock distribution scheme based on traveling wave transmission line rings pumped by a set of cross-coupled inverters. (See, Wood, Abstract, FIGS. 1-4, and 15-30, etc.) As noted by the applicants, Woods' traveling wave approach has known phase and frequency limitations arising from geometric constraints. (See Applicants' specification, Background Section, page 3 lines 22-32). In any case, Woods exploits the "wire inductance" of the transmission line (of appropriate length) to form ring resonators, but does not disclose or suggest "the additional inductors" required by claims 1, 9 and 20. Accordingly, these claim 1, 9 and 20 are patentable over Woods.

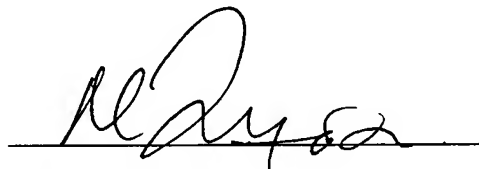
Dependent claims 2-8, and 10-20

Dependent claims 6-8 and 15-18 are allowable as indicated in the Office Action. In addition, claims 2-5, and 10-14 and 19 are patentable over Wood for at least the same reasons as their parent claims 1 and 9 are patentable as discussed above.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of which are respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues to be resolved, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner kindly contact the undersigned attorney for early resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Manu J Tejawani', is written over a horizontal line.

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Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants submit a set of replacement drawings, which have the informal PCT markings removed.